

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Vol. 27, No. 1

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, December 6, 1962

GHI Board in Split Decision Adopts Budget Of Manager, Keeps Monthly Charges the Same

by Al Skolnik

A 1963 budget requiring no change in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. monthly charges was adopted by the GHI board at a special meeting on Monday, December 3, but only after a series of 5-4 votes that split the board wide open. The majority action of the board was in effect an endorsement of the budget submitted by GHI manager Roy Breashears — his first as GHI manager.

The \$1,456,300 budget for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 1963, calls for increased expenditures of \$6,600, but this increase is expected to be offset by increased income from sources other than members' monthly charges.

A board group consisting of directors Bill Helm, Joe Comproni, Allen Morrison, and Joe Cherry tried zealously but fruitlessly to cut the budget and reduce monthly charges. Their efforts were resisted by another 4-man bloc composed of board members Ed Burgoon, Frank Lastner, Ed Peters, and Henry Brautigam. Pivot man was GHI president Harry Zubkoff who broke the tie in favor of the latter group on three critical issues.

Bloc voting prevailed throughout the evening except on one issue concerning the payment of contract work from reserves when Frank Lastner became the pivot man by voting with the Helm-Comproni-Morrison-Cherry group.

Reserves

The first key issue was a motion by Helm to reduce the rate of build-up of contingency reserves for brick homes. Since the early years, the corporation had set aside each year \$10,000 for brick and \$20,000 for frame contingencies. As of September 30, 1962, the contingency reserves stood at \$92,100 for the brick homes and \$131,712 for the frame. Helm, joined later by Comproni, argued that as long as there were no definite plans to use the contingency funds, the previous rate of build-up was no longer necessary, especially in the case of the brick homes.

Burgoon countered by listing a few of the major replacement and repair projects that the aging GHI homes would need in the next five years — replacement of hot water return lines and steam pipes, roof-replacement for brick homes (the roofs of the frame houses are now being replaced), flue and refractory work on the boilers, replacement and cleaning of boilers and oil tanks, and gutter work. If by chance all this work were needed at one time, the reserves would be wiped out. Burgoon said. He felt he did not want to jeopardize the soundness of the corporation by cutting reserves arbitrarily.

Cherry agreed that the GHI plant would be in need of much replacement work, but felt that until his maintenance committee had a chance to devise a long-range plan for determining the cost and priority of these projects, the rate of build-up of the reserves could just as well be cut.

Lastner cautioned against making cuts in the reserves which would only have to be restored the following year. Peters likewise expressed concern over the type of thinking that would ignore all the admonitions of management as to future need for major replacement work in order to effect a short-term savings in monthly charges.

The motion was defeated 5-4, with Zubkoff breaking the tie.

Interest

A second key issue concerned a motion by Burgoon to keep the interest obtained from the contingency reserves in that account rather than to use the interest to relieve monthly charges. About \$7,800 was involved and Burgoon felt that in view of the need for building up the contingency reserves, it would be logical to assign the interest for this purpose. This issue

was decided in the same fashion as the first one.

Reduce Charges

A third critical vote involved a motion by Comproni that monthly charges in 1963 be reduced by using (1) the \$13,000 collected but not used in 1962 for a pension program for GHI employees; (2) \$10,000 savings from the 1962 city tax cut; and (3) \$3,600 from the additional income from GDC rental apartments.

Breashears explained that no money was included in the 1963 budget for pensions on the supposition that the money collected in 1962 would be funded and used to pay the first year's premium when the program is initiated in 1963. Thus, the 1963 budget has already taken into account the \$13,000 saved by the delay in the start of the pension program.

As for the savings from the tax cut, Breashears pointed out that the 1963 budget again already reflects this savings. Although the budget assumes that city and county taxes would cost the corporation \$246,000 in 1963, only \$236,000 is being charged the members, he said.

Helm and Comproni, however, took issue with the manager's estimate of future taxes, which roughly assumed a 15 cents per \$100 assessed valuation rise in the city rate and 12-cent rise in county-state, and other taxes. Morrison felt that city taxes might well come down because of additional property coming on the rolls, but Breashears stated that he consulted with various city officials before making up his estimates. Councilman Bill Phillips, who attended the meeting stated his conviction that city taxes would not be increased and probably would be lowered.

Peters pointed out that GHI tax reserves as of September 30, 1962, were only \$292. It is also known that the county tax might be increased substantially, in view of plans for an expanded school building program. In light of the uncertainty surrounding the tax situation and the low level of reserves, Peters thought it would be the height of foolishness to cut down the amounts budgeted for taxes.

As for the \$3,600 anticipated additional income from GDC rental apartments, Breashears stated that the 1963 budget already anticipates a dividend of \$5,000 from GDC.

Comproni's motion was defeated by 5-4, with Zubkoff casting the deciding vote. Zubkoff pointed out that the budget as approved makes the second year in a row that charges have not been increased and that since 1953 monthly charges have only been increased on the average 6 percent.

"This is a fine record," he said, "when compared to other housing costs in the Washington area and I do not think our members have anything to complain of."

Other Action

One noncontroversial motion passed was to increase the anticipated income from the corporation's refinancing plan from \$6,000 to \$12,000. This plan is already employing the entire \$133,000 proceeds from the land sale and GHI officials are well pleased with its operation.

One other item that came to a vote concerned a motion by Burgoon to have contract work for flue and refractory work on boilers (continued on p. 3, col. 2)

News Review Dinner To Feature Bill Gold

Bill Gold, popular columnist for the Washington Post, will be the feature attraction at the News Review Anniversary dinner, to be held Saturday evening at the American Legion. His presentation will not consist of an after-dinner speech, but rather an unusual — even unique — approach to after-dinner entertainment. The details cannot be disclosed in advance, but those attending the gala affair may look forward to the evening with keen anticipation.

The buffet dinner marks the 25th continuous year of publication for the Greenbelt News Review, and all the former staff members who worked on the paper during its entire history have been invited to attend. Some are coming from various parts of the country, eager to renew old acquaintances and exchange reminiscences. A cocktail hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. will precede the dinner. The few remaining tickets can still be obtained by anyone interested in coming to the party from Elaine Skolnik, GR 4-6060, Adele Mund, GR 4-8795, or Marian Gail, GR 4-2876.

High Point High Points

by Naomi Baron

The High Point Drama Department's first production of the year, O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness," is proving itself to be an overwhelming success. After its full-house opening performance on the afternoon of December 4, there will be showings through Saturday. Tickets are still available for Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. in the schools Little Theatre.

Last week brought double-trouble to the High Point student body. Not only were report cards distributed on Tuesday, but the fateful individual pictures also arrived on the following day.

Seniors are now breathing a needed sigh of relief. College Board tests are over, having been administered on Saturday, December 1.

Further selection has been done in choosing the junior girl who will participate in the St. Timothy's Latin American Seminar this summer. From over 25 preliminary applicants, the High Point faculty has narrowed the competition to four girls — Dianne Marshall, Naomi Baron, Barbara Chotiner, and Toni Falbo. St. Timothy's High School will make the final selection after personal interviews with each candidate.

Junior Phillip Edmondson has been selected to represent High Point at the Junior Stockholders meeting of Washington Gas Light Company. He will also be one of the 42 area students to receive a share of stock in the company.

Christmas Workshop

On Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m., Greenbelt Community Church will hold its Annual Christmas Family Workshop. Families of the Church are invited to come together to work on Christmas Projects for others and for their own homes. They will be making Christmas tree decorations for the Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship to take to D.C. General Hospital the following Saturday, tray mats for Christmas dinner for those hospitalized, as well as many other articles, ending the afternoon of fun and fellowship with a devotional worship service.

Ballet Lessons

Registration will be held for ballet lessons, Tuesday, December 11, at 4 p.m. Pre-school and elementary children are welcome to attend. A nominal fee will be charged to cover cost of instructor's services.

Crowd at Council Meeting Hears Zoellner Named Acting PD Chief

by Dorothy Sucher

Marshall Zoellner, a long-time member of Greenbelt's Police Department, was appointed Acting Police Chief at a crowded City Council meeting on Monday, December 3. The appointment was announced by Albert S. Attick, Acting Co-manager (with Mable Kandler) since the retirement of former City Manager Charles T. McDonald last Friday.

The audience overflowed the crowded council chamber, and there were many standees in the rear of the room as well as in the stairwell. The majority had come because of interest in Zoellner's appointment; many were members of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Anthony Madden, spokesman for the group asked the council to clarify conflicting rumors that had been circulating over the weekend regarding the appointment of a Police Chief. Council decided to take the matter up immediately. The discussion that followed was complicated by many legal, jurisdictional, and procedural questions, and occupied the greater part of the evening.

Events of Weekend Reviewed

Mayor Francis White summarized the events of the preceding weekend as follows: On Friday, former City Manager Charles T. McDonald appointed Marshall Zoellner as Police Chief, informing the members of council of his actions by means of a memo. Friday was MacDonald's last day in office. Some time prior to this action, MacDonald had informed the Council that he had narrowed the list of applicants down to five men who were best-qualified for the post; however, he added that a waiver of one or more provisions of the recently-adopted job description for the post of Police Chief would be needed before any of them could be appointed.

On Friday, however, McDonald made his appointment without applying for a waiver. Council thereupon asked the City Solicitor for an opinion as to the legality of the appointment.

At this point at Monday's meeting, the Mayor called upon City Solicitor Edgar Smith to repeat his decision for the benefit of the citizens present. Smith stated, "In my opinion the appointment is invalid. The job description specified that the Police Chief should be 'a high school graduate,' and Zoellner does not meet this requirement. By appointing him without a waiver, the manager exceeded his authority, and so the appointment has no legal effect."

On Saturday, after the solicitor had given his opinion, the Council met with co-managers Attick and Kandler, who later notified Zoellner that his appointment was not valid.

Divergent Viewpoints

On Monday night, the Council, aided by frequent consultations with the solicitor, tried to clarify the complicated legal questions involved. The citizenry, on the other hand, repeatedly urged that immediate action be taken. A statement by Mrs. Rita Fisher, "The co-managers should ask for a waiver right now,"

Lastner County Chairman

Incumbent Commissioner Frank Lastner was sworn in as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for two years on December 4. He is the first Greenbelt resident to serve as county chairman.

The chairmanship of the Board for the next four years is slated to be split between Lastner and Jesse S. Baggett, with each serving two years as chairman.

The other incumbent Commissioner re-elected in the November 6 General Election — M. Bayne Brooke — is slated to become vice-chairman of the Board for the entire four-year term.

League of Woman Voters

The Northern Prince Georges County Unit of the League of Women Voters will hold its next meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 13, in the College Park Municipal Center.

A special invitation has been issued to Greenbelt women to attend the meeting. Any interested drivers or riders please contact Mrs. Paul Lovell at 474-4101.

was followed by applause. Councilman Benjamin Goldfaden responded by saying, "This is a pressure group. Do you want to pressure the managers?" Madden denied this was their intent, saying, "We don't want to press the managers to ask for a waiver without sufficient study. But as far as the citizenry is concerned, this is a crisis situation. And it has been for some time."

Other citizens stated their belief that an injustice had been done to Zoellner. As one citizen expressed it, "On Friday Zoellner was told he had been appointed, and all day long he received messages of congratulations. Then, 24 hours later, he was informed that it was all a mistake."

The Mayor, however, ruled out all discussion of personalities, saying, "This is not the Council's business. It is the business of the Council to set policy. The selection of personnel is the prerogative of the manager." Nevertheless, he went on to add, "I am most distressed that Mr. Zoellner has knowingly been illegally appointed. And I submit that the responsibility for this lies with the former manager."

McDonald was not present at the council meeting. When asked the reason later for having appointed Zoellner without asking for a waiver, he replied that he didn't think it was necessary. "I mentioned in my memo to the Council that Zoellner had 11 years of high school and had passed an equivalency test. In my opinion he is qualified. I promised Council that I would make an appointment by my last day in office. Without a doubt, it was my responsibility to do this."

He also expressed doubts regarding the opinion given by the City Solicitor. At the Monday meeting, Councilman Dave Champion voiced similar reservations, noting that the job classification for the Police Chief post had been adopted by a motion, whereas the City Charter specifies on ordinance. Smith replied that he had consulted Roberts Rules of Order on this point, and felt that in this case a motion and an ordinance are legally equivalent.

Co-Managers Ask Clarification

Albert Attick and Mabel Kandler, the newly-appointed co-managers, asked council to clarify their respective duties. After some discussion, a motion was carried unanimously, as follows: The Mayor moved that Attick, in addition to his present job as Superintendent of Public Works, be assigned the prime responsibility for administering the Police Department; and that Miss Kandler, in addition to her duties as Treasurer, be assigned the prime responsibility for administering the recreation department and supervising the administrative offices. Beyond these direct duties, all decisions on hiring or firing personnel should be made by both managers acting jointly. (Councilman Phillips seconded.) The motion was amended (Champion, Canning) to provide that either of the co-managers independently could suspend any employee of any department without prior consultation with the other manager.

The Mayor noted that this motion would be in effect only as long as the city solicitor did not make any contrary ruling. He was referring to the question, which arose at several points during the discussion, as to whether the institution of "co-managers" is legal, when the charter makes reference to a single manager only. Smith said that there was some reservation in his mind as to whether or not the appointment of co-managers was legal. However, he declined to give a firm opinion until he had had an opportunity to study the matter for a day or two.

More Legal Questions

Several other legal questions were (continued on p. 4, col. 1)

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Man in the Middle

The actions taken over the past weekend with respect to appointing a new Police Chief amounted to a sorry mess indeed. Who is to blame? The situation has become so complicated that it is hard to say — perhaps impossible. Practically everyone concerned has been accused in one quarter or another: the Council, anxious not to overstep its proper jurisdiction, of "dragging its feet"; the indignant citizens, of constituting a "pressure group"; and the former manager, who felt it his duty to act, of "knowingly" making an illegal appointment.

The only man who has not been blamed, in fact, is the man in the middle — Marshall (Bud) Zoellner himself, now Greenbelt's acting Police Chief. Appointed on Friday to a post for which he applied many months ago, only to be informed 24 hours later that it was all a mistake, and then finally re-appointed on Monday night (but this time as acting Police Chief); surely this was a trying test for any one man.

Many people, in Zoellner's position, would have acted rashly and spoken with bitterness. Zoellner, however, has behaved with commendable self-control and has shown the kind of mature good judgment that a Police Chief must have. Everyone has sympathized with his position, and no one has been able to find fault with the way he has handled himself.

Zoellner has shown an understanding of the fact that a policeman is not a politician; he has not drummed up support or sponsored petitions. His supporters are many, but they came to his defense without having to be asked, because they respect him. We feel that Zoellner has amply demonstrated in the last few days that he is of "chief caliber" — a belief held by many in his profession, including Inspector Roland Sweitzer and Chief George Panagoulis of the county Police Force, as well as Greenbelt's own former Police Chief, Jim Williams.

In addition, Zoellner is a Greenbelter who has lived here since the town was founded. He understands and loves our town and is thoroughly familiar with police problems here. We urge that he be given an opportunity to show what he can do in his new post. By this we mean that he should not be hamstrung by too many bureaucratic restrictions, however well-meant. A Police Chief must have the authority to make decisions he feels are necessary for the improvement of his department always subject, of course, to the appropriate safeguards embodied in such institutions as the Personnel Board, to which employees may submit their grievances. We feel confident that Bud Zoellner will do an excellent job.

LOCAL SEAMAN RECEIVES LEGION OF MERIT AWARD

Nineteen year old William D. Hodges of the Norfolk based destroyer JOHN W. WEEKS, became the first Seaman in the peacetime history of the Navy to be awarded the Legion of Merit in ceremonies at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard on November 28. Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth made the presentation on behalf of the President on board the WEEKS.

The award, the third highest offered in peacetime, is for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in connection with rescue and evacuation operations following a disastrous train wreck in Steelton, Pennsylvania, on July 28 of this year."

A Seaman Apprentice at the time of the train wreck, Hodges was a member of a drill team returning by bus from a parade at Port Royal, Pa., to Bainbridge, Md. On arriving at the scene of the nine car derailment Hodges ordered the bus stopped and immediately organized his drill team into a rescue unit and proceeded to remove the injured and dead from the twisted wreckage.

When an Air Force Major arrived on the scene he considered the existing organization such that he offered his services to Hodges rather than taking over as Senior Officer present. A Captain of the Pennsylvania Highway Patrol also considered the job being done so effective that he maintained the organization without interference or direction.

The citation accompanying the award reads in part, "... Displaying unusual organizational skill, firm leadership and quick initiative, he directed and personally participated in rescue and evacuation." See Pg. 3, Col. 2



PROUD MOTHER — Mrs. Patsy C. Hodges, 59-C Ridge, admires Legion of Merit presented to her son, William D. Hodges, USN, left, by Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth, right. Secretary Korth said "The Navy would like to claim credit for his training, but since he had been in the Navy only a few weeks, we must credit his mother with the training he received in his youth."

(Official U. S. Navy photograph)

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The Holy Name Society, of St. Hugh's Catholic Church, will attend Mass on Sunday, December 9 at 8 a.m. All members, men and boys, are invited. After Mass members and guests will enjoy the Annual Holy Name Society Breakfast. Tickets available at the door.

Homemakers' Open House

A Homemaker's Open House will be held on Thursday, December 13 at 8 p.m. in the new Co-op Hospitality Room.

Mrs. Sarah Newman will speak on "Consumer Protection." Mrs. Newman was the former president of the Maryland Consumer's Council.

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PIANOS - Starck, Estey, Schoeninger, Lester, Hardman Players. start at \$395; Hohner Electric pianos portable \$395; Refinished grands 5'2", 5'3", and 5'8" \$1095 up; Look like new - Studio uprights \$295 up rebuilt; Pump type players rebuilt \$350; Electric players \$450.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - Guitars, mandolins, banjos, ukes, violins, Gibson, Martin, Framus, Saxophones, clarinets, flutes, trumpets, trombones by King, Olds, Martin, La Blanc, Thiboville, Reynolds. 20% off on Accordians and Cornets.

TELEVISION - 23" wood low boy - Curtis Mathes169.95 with trade; stereo, AM FM radio and tape deck \$329.95; TV, AM FM stereo comb.

Cont'd from pg. 1, col. 2

come out of monthly charges instead of reserves as recommended by management. The latter admitted that such work should come out of operating expenses but, influenced by the desire to keep down monthly charges, had recommended that the costs be met through reserves. Lastner voted against the motion, thus defeating it, as the two blocs voted according to form.

Pay Raise

One of the significant items included in the new budget is \$15,950 for pay raises for GHI employees. These pay raises follow the recent pattern set by the Federal Government of giving higher grade employees a greater percentage increase than lower-paid employees. The increases for administrative employees ranged from 1.5 percent to 4.8 percent and for blue collar workers from 3.4 to 14.0 percent.

The 1963 budget allows \$11,500 for the frame-roof replacement program, to be supplemented by \$20,000 from the frame-home contingency reserves. This program was initiated in 1961 as part of a four-year program to replace 240 roof units a year.

Cont'd. From page 2, col. 3

tion operations for a period of approximately eight hours, contributing greatly to the saving of many lives and to the alleviation of human suffering."

\$299.95 with trade; Philco and Admirable Portables - record players with stand and record gift pack \$69.96.

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FOR SALE - Two snow tires with good tread - 760 x 15 \$20. GR. 4-4775.

Woman's Club Notes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Woman's Club will be held at the home of Mrs. Jay Brubaker, 6R Ridge, on Thursday, December 6, at 8 p.m.

The club will hold its annual Christmas Party on Thursday evening, December 13, at the Community Church, at 8 p.m. Guests of honor will be members of the Golden Age Club. Arrangements are being made by Mrs. Edward Wuermser, chairman, and her committee.

New Year's Eve Party

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For Greenbelt Boys & Girls ONLY

RULES:

Contest closes Wed., Jan. 2, 1963, at which time all contest entries must have been submitted. The co-op labels must be securely attached together with name, address and phone number, as well as count of number of labels in package. We will count only those labels which include most or all of the label. Both the word Co-op and the name of the product must be readable to qualify. Co-op products quality regardless of type. Co-op employees exempt. Only person 16 yrs. of age and under eligible. PRIZE TO TOP BOY AND TOP GIRL

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Greenbelt Md.

Greenbelt Police Department

Announcement: Applications are being accepted for position of Police Officer

Salary: \$4,250.00 per annum, plus overtime.

Hours: 40 hours per week, 8 hour shifts. 13 Holidays (Officers work most Holidays)

Qualifications: At least 21 years of age. Good Physical Condition. Good Character.

Leave Benefits: Annual and sick Leave.

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raised. Attick asked whether he and Miss Kandler could appoint an acting Police Chief, and this revived a matter that has been raised at previous council meetings. Councilmen Champion and Canning had twice moved that the then manager, McDonald, be empowered to appoint an acting Police Chief. Both times the motion was voted down, the Mayor maintaining that inasmuch as the manager had already possessed that authority by virtue of the Charter, it would be superfluous to pass such a motion.

At Monday's meeting, the solicitor concurred. In fact, he went further and stated that, in his opinion, if such a motion had been passed, it would have been contrary to the charter. Council then passed a motion (proposed by Champion to clear the record) reaffirming Council's recognition of the right of the manager to make appointments without any special authorization.

Councilman Canning brought up another question requiring legal interpretation when he asked whether McDonald's appointment of Zoellner on Friday had not actually been tantamount to a temporary or provisional appointment. He read a statement from McDonald's memo to the effect that Zoellner should be kept on probation for six months, after which a final decision would be made by the new city manager.

The solicitor pointed out that all city employees are hired with a six-month's probationary period; hence, Zoellner's appointment was unconditional, in his opinion. Attick stated, however, that the six-month's probationary period is not ordinarily put into practice. William Hoff, Chairman of the Personnel Board, was asked to comment. His impression was that such a probationary period would only apply to new employees; an old employee (such as Zoellner) would not need to go through with it. Champion asked Hoff to review the Char-

ter with the city solicitor in order to ascertain whether Zoellner's rights had been protected.

The solicitor remarked: "If I had an indication on Saturday that this was in the nature of a temporary appointment, and that the job description would not be the same as for a permanent appointee, then my opinion would have been different."

Attick Announces Appointment

After some further discussion, Attick rose to announce his promotion of Zoellner to the post of Acting Chief of Police. At the same time, he indicated that Sergeant Green would also be given increased responsibility in the department. "We need a police chief," said Attick "And I feel obligated to use the men on our force." His statement was followed by applause.

Attick later amplified his statement at the meeting, saying, "I felt I had to take action. The thing had been drawn out too long already. I made the appointment not because of pressure groups, but because a Police Chief is needed for the morale of the department and the good of the people. And I think that Officer Zoellner, through no fault of his own, was terribly hurt."

Basketball Tryouts

All boys interested in playing basketball and all boys who signed last week are asked to report to the Youth Center, Saturday, December 8 at 1 p.m. for tryouts. Men

are still needed to coach basketball. This year the Boy's Club hopes to put four teams in the league, but to do so we must have help. Please call Bud Dean, GR 4-6086.

Lutheran Services

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 22 Ridge rd., will hold mid-week Advent services each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. until Christmas.

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(P.S. to ladies who couldn't resist reading this far: Casually leave the paper where he can't miss this hint.)

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